

REMARKS

Currently claims 1-38 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15 and 17-19 have been rejected and claims 4, 10 and 16 have been objected to.

Claims 4, 10 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, claims 1, 8 and 14 have been amended to include subject matter of claims 4, 10 and 16 respectively and the word “minimizing” has been changed to “reducing”. Claims 4, 10, 16, and 20-38 have been cancelled.


Applicants traverse the Examiner’s rejection of claims in this case citing Okazaki et al. in view of Li et al. It is believed that the previous amendment sets forth unobvious distinctions between the independent claims prior to this amendment and the prior art. It should be noted by the Examiner that in Okaszaki et al., powdered material is placed on a belt which is then gradually transported into a heating zone as contrasted with the present invention, where a stream of fluidized powdered material is directed directly onto a heated member. The streaming material is heated as it contacts the heated member without the use of an additional transport mechanism, such as, the conveyor belt of Okazaki et al. It is not reasonable to say that a stream of material, as set forth in the claims of this case, is in any way the same or equivalent to a moving belt. Notwithstanding the foregoing, since claims 4, 10, and 16 have been incorporated into their corresponding independent claims, this case, should now be in condition for allowance.

It is believed that these changes now make the claims clear and definite and, if there were any problems with these changes, Applicants’ attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this

application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Raymond L. Owens", written over a horizontal line.

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.